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LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GABON
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Since the establishment of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), there has been a considerable improvement in the situation in the Central African Republic.

This is undoubtedly the result of the joint efforts by the Central African Republic and the African States which, with the logistic and financial support of France and the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are participating in this important mission.

As you are aware, as from 15 April 1998, the composition of MISAB will change by reason of the withdrawal of France, and its logistic and financial resources will consequently be drastically reduced.

If nothing is done to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his most recent report, it is to be feared that the political situation in the Central African Republic may once again become precarious.

Accordingly, in my capacity as Chairman of the International Mediation Committee on the Central African crisis and on behalf of the countries participating in the inter-African force to monitor the Bangui Agreements, it seems to me appropriate, in the short term, to request the Security Council to give favourable consideration to the need to extend the mandate of MISAB until 15 March 1998.

(Signed) El Hadj Omar BONGO

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